



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 969 AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN AND AROUND THE RHAM MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten, Representative Miller; Vice Chairmen Senator Cassano, Representative D'Agostino; Ranking Members Senator Linares, Representative Aman, and esteemed members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 969, put forth by Senator Osten and of which have I co-signed. The purpose of this bill is to seek Connecticut State Bonding for monies to remedy a serious situation regarding parking and traffic at the RHAM (Region 8) educational campus in Hebron.

In the early morning of March 14, 2014 a tragic accident occurred in the parking lot of the RHAM Middle School. A long tenured and dedicated teacher, Dawn Mallory, lost her life when struck by a car. The car was driven by a parent who had mistakenly ended up in the dedicated bus lane and was attempting to back out of the situation. The community, both in the schools and the surrounding three towns mourned the loss of such a beloved teacher, and grieved for all the families involved. With the direction from the School's administration and Hebron's town government, a traffic pattern study was ordered, received and reviewed. Recommendations set forth in the study and a series of meetings indicated that indeed a reconfiguration of both the traffic pattern and the physical parking lot are needed to ensure that there will be two separate patterns; one for the school buses carrying RHAM middle and high school students and one for the parents that chose to drop their children off in the morning or pick them up in the afternoon. With this change in the traffic pattern the loss of parking spaces requires additional spaces to be built. Additionally to do everything possible to avoid another serious injury additional signage and speed tables and adjustment to existing cross walks are included in the scope of the project.

The loss of Dawn Mallory was a heartbreaking tragedy for our three communities and her family. As a resident of Hebron and a parent of a current RHAM student I can assure you that we are dedicated to seeing through a corrective plan to the campus. However, Region 8 is comprised of three small towns (Andover, Hebron and Marlborough). The estimated \$1.3 million project is an extreme hardship to add on top of the already fiscally constrained communities. I urge your support of the Connecticut state Bonding of this project so that our community can begin to heal from the tragedy and re-engineer the RHAM Campus for the safety of our students, teachers, employees and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle Mulligan". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Gayle Mulligan
State Representative – 55th District